

# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012 (213) 974-1101 http://ceo.lacounty.gov

June 23, 2008

Board of Supervisors GLORIA MOLINA First District

YVONNE B. BURKE Second District

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MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH Fifth District

To:

Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair

Supervisor Gloria Molina Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky Supervisor Don Knabe

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From:

William T Fujioka

Chief Executive Officer

#### SACRAMENTO UPDATE

## **Budget Conference Committee**

The Budget Conference Committee did not meet on Thursday, June 19, 2008. The Committee convened on Friday, June 20, 2008, and adopted reimbursement for counties for the cost of the Presidential Primary in the amount of \$85.7 million, subject to each county being "desk audited" by the State Controller. The County would be eligible to receive up to a maximum of \$22.5 million.

## Pursuit of Position County Position on Legislation

AB 1252 (Caballero), as amended on June 19, 2008, would appropriate: 1) \$50 million from the Transit-Oriented Development Account established in Proposition 1C (the Housing and Emergency Trust Fund Act of 2006), and \$100 million from the Regional Planning, Housing and Infill Incentive Account under Proposition 1C, to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (CDHCD); and also appropriate: 2) \$63 million from the Highway-Railroad Crossing Safety Account established in Proposition 1B (the Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006) for allocation to the California Department of Transportation and other eligible applicants for high-priority grade separation and railroad crossing safety improvement projects, and \$87 million from the Local Streets and Road Improvement, Congestion Relief, and Traffic Safety Account of 2006 under Proposition 1B for allocations to counties for specified local street and road improvements.

#### <u>Transit-Oriented Development and Infill Infrastructure Grant Programs</u>

Proposition 1C authorized the issuance of \$2.85 billion in State general obligation bonds, including \$300 million for the Transit-Oriented Development Account and \$850 million for the Regional Planning, Housing and Infill Incentive Account. The 2007 Budget Act appropriated \$95 million to the Transit-Oriented Development Grant Program and \$240 million for the Infill Infrastructure Grant Program. In December 2007, CDHCD issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) of approximately \$95 million for the Transit-Oriented Development Grant Program and in February 2008, issued a NOFA of approximately \$240 million for the Infill Infrastructure Grant Program. Applications for the Transit-Oriented Development and Infill Infrastructure Grant Programs were due to CDHCD by March 7, 2008 and April 4, 2008, respectively. According to the Senate Floor Analysis, the request for funding in the applications received by CDHCD exceeded the amount of funding available by a factor of roughly five to one for both programs.

AB 1252 would appropriate \$50 million to the CDHCD from the Transit-Oriented Development Account to augment the initial NOFA of \$95 million, for a total of \$145 million, for the Transit-Oriented Development Grant Program, and \$100 million to the CDHCD from the Regional Planning, Housing and Infill Incentive Account to augment the original NOFA of \$240 million, for a total of \$340 million, for the Infill Infrastructure Grant Program. These appropriations would provide additional funds for grant awards of projects recommended by CDHCD from the first round of applications, which could not be funded from the available program allocations.

#### Grand Avenue Project Application Status

The County submitted a joint application with Grand Avenue LA, LLC, for grant funds for the Civic Park in the Grand Avenue Project by the required filing date. CDHCD recently held a meeting of the Local Assistance Loan and Grant Committee for the committee to consider program action items presented and recommended for funding by CDHCD, including funding recommendations for round one of the Transit-Oriented Development and Infill Infrastructure Grant Programs. According to CDHCD, the Grand Avenue Project did not receive enough points to be funded from the original appropriation under the Infill Infrastructure Grant Program. However, the Grand Avenue Project is recommended for an award with an increase in the existing funding allocation for the Infill Infrastructure Grant Program. The recommendation and amount is subject to an additional appropriation by the Legislature, above and beyond the current appropriation. The Grand Avenue Project is already recommended for a grant award from the original appropriation for the Transit-Oriented Development Grant Program.

This office and the Department of Public Works recommend support of AB 1252. Consistent with the April 2007 recommendations of the Infrastructure Task Force Report and existing policy to support funding for the acquisition, development, and

rehabilitation of parks and open space, our Sacramento advocates will support AB 1252. AB 1252 is supported by the CDHCD. There is no known opposition. This measure will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Monday, June 23, 2008.

## **Status of County Advocacy Legislation**

County-supported SB 1341 (Padilla), which would permit CalWORKs recipients to retain savings and interest earned on savings in a restricted account to secure permanent rental housing or to make a rental payment to overcome an episode of homelessness, passed the Assembly Human Services Committee on June 17, 2008 by a vote of 5 to 2 and now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

County-opposed AB 2262 (Torrico), as amended on June 18, 2008, which would extend the timeframe for the safe surrender of a baby from 72 hours to seven days, passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on June 17, 2008, with amendments, by a vote of 4 to 0 and now proceeds to the Senate Judiciary Committee. A hearing in this Committee has been scheduled for June 24, 2008. The amendments require the State Department of Health Care Services to issue updated instructions to counties that would address certain issues related to safe surrender.

County-supported AB 2527 (Berg), as amended on April 7, 2008, which would clarify provisions that govern local public agency participation in the Medi-Cal Targeted Case Management and Medi-Cal Administrative Activities billing options, passed the Senate Health Committee on June 18, 2008 by a vote of 10 to 0 and now proceeds to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

County-opposed AB 2702 (Nuñez), which would allow Community and Mission Hospital of Huntington Park, with only a standby emergency department (ED), to receive the physician portion of Maddy Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Funds that are designated for basic EDs that receive 9-1-1 ambulance traffic, passed the Senate Health Committee on June 18, 2008, with amendments, by a vote of 8 to 1 and now proceeds to the Senate Appropriations Committee. The amendments require that the hospital meet specific requirements.

A spokesperson for the County's Department of Health Services testified in opposition to the bill, indicating that imposing certain requirements on the hospital is a good idea, however the identity of the entity which would certify that the hospital has met these requirements was not clear. Speaker Emeritus Nuñez's office stated that an amendment requiring the State Department of Public Health to certify that the hospital has met the requirements will be offered on the Senate Floor. These amendments do not address the fundamental problem of allowing a standby ED, which is not equipped to receive 9-1-1 ambulance traffic, to receive Maddy EMS Funds.

County-supported SB 292 (Wiggins), as amended on June 11, 2008, which would make California law consistent with Federal law to allow counties to place children served by the AB 3632 Program in out-of-state group homes that are operated as for-profit entities, passed the Assembly Human Services Committee on June 17, 2008 by a vote of 5 to 0 and now proceeds to the Assembly Education Committee. A hearing in this Committee has been scheduled for June 24, 2008.

County-opposed SB 1096 (Calderon), as amended on May 23, 2008, which would allow a pharmacy to mail specified written information to a patient without their consent, provided that the communication pertains only to the prescribed course of medical treatment and does not promote other pharmaceutical products, failed passage in the Assembly Health Committee on June 17, 2008 by a vote of 0 to 9. The Committee unanimously voted to grant the bill reconsideration.

County-supported SB 1132 (Migden), as amended on April 9, 2008, which would eliminate the requirement that former foster youth between the ages of 18 and 21 complete an application as a condition of receiving ongoing Medi-Cal benefits, passed the Assembly Health Committee on June 17, 2008 by a vote of 14 to 0, and now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

County-supported SB 1341 (Padilla), which would permit CalWORKs recipients to retain savings and interest earned on savings in a restricted account to secure permanent rental housing or to make a rental payment to overcome an episode of homelessness, passed the Assembly Human Services Committee on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, by a vote of 5 to 2, and now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

County-supported SB 1420 (Padilla), as amended on May 13, 2008, which would require all chain restaurants in the State with 15 or more outlets to provide nutritional information on their menus, passed the Assembly Health Committee on June 17, 2008 by a vote of 10 to 5 and now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

County-supported SB 1688 (Ridley-Thomas), as amended on May 19, 2008, which would require an owner or operator of a for-profit hospital to maintain the same level of care provided in the preceding calendar year, and prohibit the owner/operator from decreasing the total expenditures for a hospital by more than 10 percent from the prior year's expenditures without the approval of the California Department of Public Health, passed the Assembly Health Committee on June 17, 2008 by a vote of 12 to 3 and now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

County-supported SB 1734 (Kuehl), as amended on May 20, 2008, which would prohibit a real estate investment trust which leases property to a hospital from amending the lease or selling the property to a for-profit hospital operator if the action would result

in a reduction of care or closure of the hospital, passed the Assembly Health Committee on June 17, 2008 by a vote of 12 to 3 and now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:GK:MAL DD:IGA:mp

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Local 721
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities
City Managers Associations
Buddy Program Participants